

approaching a state of exhaustion, and in many places the German line must be wearing almost as thin as that of the Allies. To select the time and place for launching the counter attack at the exact moment when the enemy is at the maximum strain is the duty of the commander in chief of the allied armies in France, Gen. Foch.

The British were forced back to the high ground north of Ypres, where fresh selected divisions hurried against Gen. von Foch's attack on a front of less than four miles between Neuve Eglise and Baillieu. The enemy continued yesterday the attempt at the north end of the Ypres salient, which the German army is endeavoring to turn the way to Calais and Boulogne and also guard the position at Ypres.

At the other end of the line the Germans are fighting desperately at the corner of Nieppe Wood to break through to Hazebrouck, where the railroads leading to Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne and the sea meet. Between the line of the German advance and the railroad leading to Ypres, Poperinghe, Hazebrouck, Lillers and Bethune there are a number of small hills or ridges which afford strong defensive positions.

If this high ground were to be lost it would endanger the road, which is the "backbone" of the German line. The line of Ypres with that south of Bethune, and might compel a retirement in the direction of the Channel ports, or even a withdrawal of the German army from the entire front.

While such a retirement would be secondary in importance to the preservation unbroken of the British lines, and their guns and material, and an unbroken contact with the French army, it will be unnecessary to make the British army able to retain possession of the high ground between Ypres and Hazebrouck, on which there are strong positions, like Messines, Kemmel, which rises almost 400 feet above the valley.

Bernhardi Wins Ludendorff.

The knowledge that Von Bernhardi, who gained fame from his pamphlet "Germany and the Next War," has been placed by Gen. Ludendorff, the real head of the German army, in command of the operations which the Germans hope to drive across the Lys to Hazebrouck, St. Omer and Calais, gives additional interest to the German strategy in this sector and also suggests that Ludendorff has adopted Bernhardi's principles.

In this offensive there has been no great single thrust, no deliberate, cumulative tactics like those of Gen. von Falkenhayn at Verdun, but a series of small attacks, each following the other, the regular appearance of fresh German troops when the moment arrives for a supreme effort to break through, are another illustration of Von Bernhardi's principles.

He combated the methods of the German General Staff and their mechanical warfare, the rigidity of their strategic conceptions, the overburdening of divisions and corps with heavy artillery materiel, and the excessive proportion of artillery to infantry. Quality, not quantity, was his motto.

He insisted that for operations in the field first line troops only should be employed and that it would be wiser to limit the number than to depend on inferior troops for reserve, which were incapable. His strategy is plainly evident on the Lys to-day.

Ypres Ruin on New Line.

A writer in the Evening Standard to-day says: "The loss of Wytschaete has been followed by the retirement of troops from Panchendaele Ridge (northeast of Ypres), our line now passing just north of the ruins of Ypres. This straightens our front, and although we must regret the necessity of giving up positions won at so much cost, after the enemy had got a grip on Messines Ridge it would have been the worst strategy to hold on there."

"Altogether Field Marshal von Hindenburg has thrown something like 120 divisions (about 1,500,000 men) into battle and at least seventy of these (about 900,000 men) have been withdrawn at one time or another, and after being brought up to full strength have been sent again into the battle line—some divisions as many as three times."

"While Von Hindenburg therefore is squandering his reserves with the sole object of forcing a decision, Gen. Foch is carefully conserving the Allied forces, while the German losses are increased daily the Allied armies are growing in strength every day."

OFFICIAL BULLETINS FROM BATTLE FRONT

British Shorten Line and Then Begin Counter Attacks.

LONDON, April 17.—Following are the official reports of the fighting on the Western front.

BRITISH (DAY).—This morning intense bombardments were opened by the enemy on practically the whole of the Lys battlefront, and from the forest of Nieppe to Wytschaete were followed by infantry attacks. All these attacks have been repulsed and considerable losses inflicted on the enemy.

In counter attacks, reported in the morning communiqué, our troops succeeded in entering the villages of Messines and Wytschaete, but in the face of continued hostile attacks, were unable to maintain their positions there.

French troops are cooperating with the British on this front.

BRITISH (DAY).—We delivered a successful counter attack yesterday evening in the neighborhood of Wytschaete. At Messines also our counter attack restored the situation and the village remains in our hands.

Throughout the afternoon and evening yesterday repeated hostile attacks north of Baillieu were repulsed with loss to the enemy. Bodies of German infantry advancing in close formation were caught under the fire of our troops at short range and suffered heavy casualties. We secured a few prisoners.

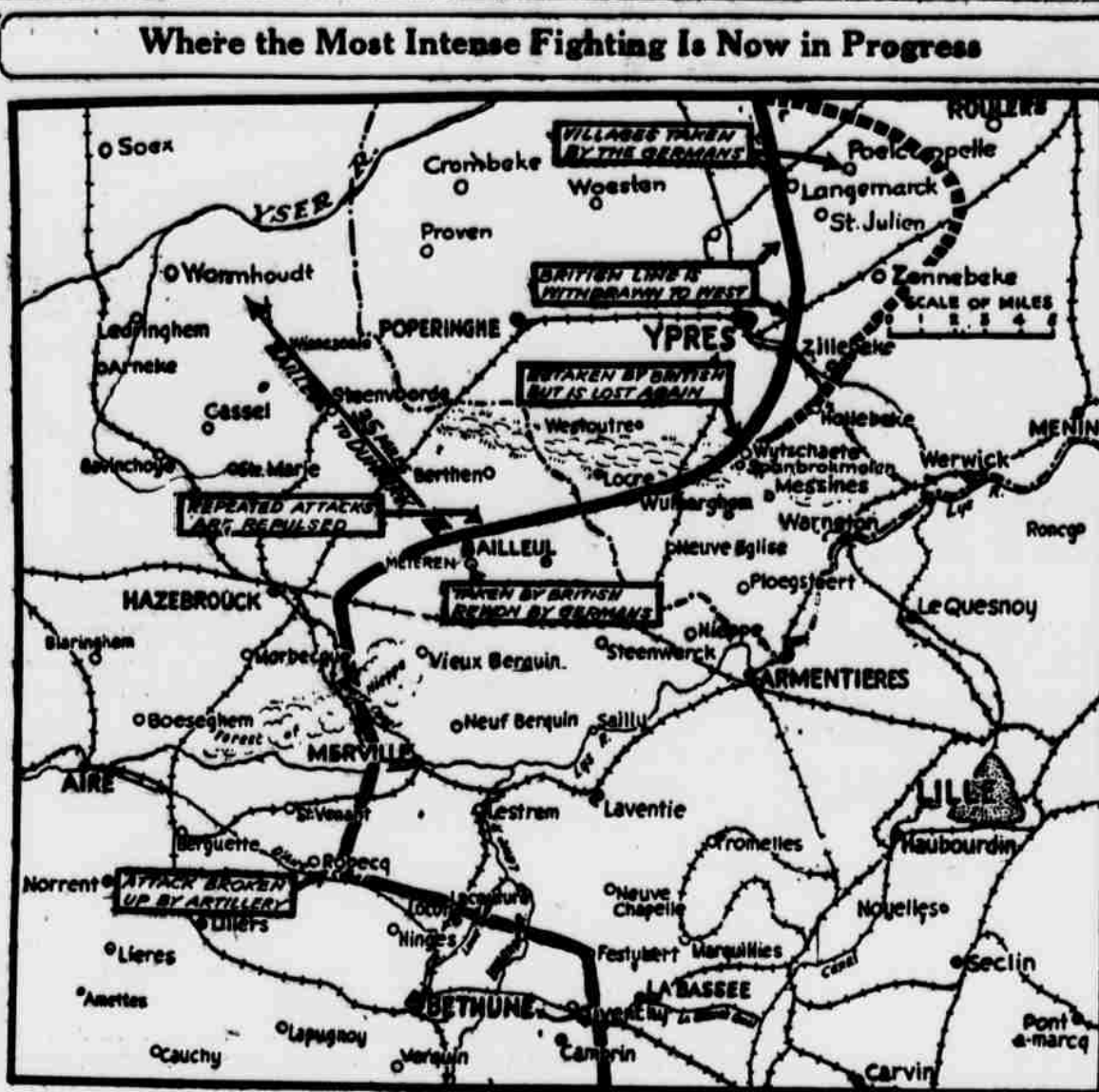
The enemy also endeavored to develop an attack yesterday afternoon east of Roebecq, following the bombardment already reported, but his advance was broken up by our artillery.

In consequence of the progress made by the enemy on the Lys front, our troops holding our forward positions east of Ypres have been withdrawn to a new line. The withdrawal was carried out deliberately, without interference by the enemy. Yesterday afternoon parties of his troops advancing over our old positions were caught by the fire of our outposts and destroyed.

On the battle front south of Arras parties of German infantry who had entered our trenches opposite Boyelles were driven out yesterday afternoon with the loss of several prisoners. Our line in this locality has been completely restored.

The hostile artillery activity increased considerably early this morning on the British front south of the Somme.

GERMAN (NIGHT).—On the field of last year's Flanders battle Poperinghe and Hazebrouck have been taken.



DESPITE THE capture by the Germans of three villages in the new battlefront just north of Ypres—Langemark, Poperinghe and Panchendaele—and their recapture of Wytschaete, on the highest part of Messines Ridge, and Meteren, just west of Baillieu, the fact that the British were able to capture and hold the two places for a time, and to repulse the most severe attacks on all other parts of the line is regarded as distinctly encouraging. Much will depend, however, on the developments of the next two days.

The extent of the drawing in of the British lines east of Ypres is not revealed in the official statements and there is no other information available. It is possible that the whole line north of Ypres may have to be swung back to the westward.

Crushing Germans back, with huge losses.

A tremendous artillery duel is raging along the northern front. Throughout the night thousands of guns of all calibres made the war zone hideous with their mighty detonations. There was no cessation of this protracted fight between the heavy batteries, and this morning the contest was still continuing, the vibration shaking windows forty and fifty miles away.

Attack Near Ypres Falls.

In the extreme north numerous enemy attacks during the afternoon and evening followed the capture by the Germans of Wytschaete and Panchendaele. Later in the afternoon the battle swung further northward, and the Germans attempted an advance at 1:30 P. M. in the Zillebeke sector. The attempt was a complete failure, and great numbers of the attacking infantry were shot down at short range by machine gun and rifle fire.

The German centre in this assault appeared to suffer heavily as the waves came forward, and the flanks, in attempting a withdrawal, came under a shelling fire, which left the ground strewn with dead and wounded.

Shortly after noon the Germans delivered an attack against the Damme-Strasse line, between Hollebeke and St. Eloi, but were driven off, and a subsequent enemy concentration in this region was dispersed by the artillery.

The continuous enemy attacks all the afternoon southwest of Baillieu were without exception repulsed with heavy losses. The German artillery filled the area west of the line with gas and high explosive shells as an adjunct to the infantry attack. At dusk the enemy drove forward again and made a vicious thrust at the British lines.

BATTLE NOT FINAL.

Whatever the Outcome American Aid Will Be Needed.

By the Associated Press.

With the French army in France, April 17.—While the cannon continue to roar along the battle line, there has been for some days a virtual cessation of infantry combats, especially on the French part of the front no one in the allied camp, however, regards the German push as being terminated. It is believed that the full will prove temporary and, despite their terrific losses and the exhaustion of many of their divisions, it is considered probable that the German staff is merely pausing to gather forces for another effort, and try to go yet further in the hope of eventually breaking through.

Any such effort is awaited confidently by the Allies, whose commanders feel certain that it will meet a similar lack of success.

The correspondent has been able to glean the present thrust of the allied side as to the situation. Almost without exception it is thought the present battle will have a decisive influence on the result of the war, but it would be an error to regard it as the last battle.

There has been a campaign on the German side to proclaim that this immense effort would result in the Allies demanding peace, but they had not counted on the tenacity of either the allied armies or nations.

As far as it has gone, the German offensive may be looked on as a failure, since none of its objectives has been attained and the allied armies are still intact, while the Germans now, owing to the diminution of their forces through casualties are in an inferior position to that which they occupied before the battle began.

The only result they can show is the capture of large tract of country they themselves devastated, where they may be compelled to dig themselves in. They are engaged in doing this in some parts of their new front, but under conditions of the most desperate.

The desperate efforts by great forces of the enemy yesterday afternoon and last night to exploit his successes about Baillieu and Wytschaete met with a costly failure.

The battle west of Baillieu has been continuous and sanguinary. Time after time the enemy forces flung themselves against the defenders in intense assaults, but on each occasion the British troops held their own and threw the

BURIAN IS AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Succeeds Czernin in Spite of German Protest at Emperor's Action.

ONCE FRIENDLY TO U. S.

Details of Peace Intrigue to Be Given Committees of French Chamber.

AMSTERDAM, April 17.—Baron Burian has been appointed Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, in succession to Count Czernin, according to a Vienna despatch. Baron Burian is taking the Foreign Ministry retains his portfolio as Minister of Finance.

According to a despatch from Budapest Baron Burian was chosen because, apart from the fact that he possesses the confidence of Emperor Charles, he is intimately acquainted with all the Foreign Office's workings for years past, his thorough knowledge of which is considered unusually important in connection with the international agreements about to be discussed.

Emperor Charles, adds the despatch, left Budapest for Vienna on Tuesday, accompanied by Baron Burian.

Baron Stephan Burian von Jassics was Minister of Foreign Affairs from September 15, 1914, to December 23, 1916, when he was succeeded by Count Czernin, whose place he now takes. Baron Burian has been Austro-Hungarian Finance Minister since Count Czernin has been in the Foreign Office. Baron Burian took the place of Count Berchtold as Foreign Minister in 1914, and he was the author of the notes to the United States on the case of the Italian steamship Ancona, sunk in the Adriatic in the fall of 1915.

ANOTHER HEAD FALLS.

Prince von Hohenlohe Is Victim of Peace Intrigue.

LONDON, April 17.—Prince von Hohenlohe, chief of court to Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary, has been discharged, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. Count Alexander Esterhazy, brother-in-law of Count Reventlow, has been appointed his successor.

Count Reventlow, while councillor of the Austrian Legation in Switzerland, sounded out a French envoy early in 1917 on the probable chances for opening peace negotiations. The Austrian Government has claimed that France took the initiative, but former Premier Ribot and Poincaré declare that it was Reventlow who sought and arranged the meetings. Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, resigned Sunday.

GERMANS FOR CZERNIN.

Supporters of Ousted Minister Attack Von Kuhlmann.

BERLIN, April 17.—The tone of the Austrian and German press indicates that a profound impression has been caused in those countries by the downfall of Count Czernin. The German people and the German element in Austria resent the retirement of the Minister, and after his resignation was announced began a vigorous campaign for his appointment as his successor.

The *Wiener Zeitung* of Vienna says Count Czernin's fall was due in part to lack of agreement with the Emperor in regard to Poland and to his attacks on the Czechs.

The same elements which deplore the fall of Count Czernin are beginning to attack the German Foreign Minister, Dr. von Kuhlmann, on the pretext that he did not protect Germany's economic interests sufficiently in the treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

CZERNIN PRAISED.

German Element Insists Peace Note Didn't Cause Downfall.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—The Committee of Union of the National German parties of Austria has passed a resolution expressing regret for the resignation of Count Czernin and declaring that no modification of the international policy should be made, according to an official despatch to-day from France.

Both the German newspapers and the pro-German press in Austria, the despatch said, unite in eulogizing Czernin and declare that the letter of Emperor Charles to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon was not the cause of the Count's resignation. In official circles in Vienna the excuse of incompatibility of temperament between the Emperor and Czernin is given as the real reason for the resignation.

Confirmation of the appointment of Baron Burian to be Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister in succession to Count Czernin has been received at the State Department from its own agencies in Europe.

Burian has been regarded by officials here as more friendly to America in the past than any of the other statesmen of the Dual Empire. It is realized, however, that his attitude may have undergone a considerable change since the entry of America into the war and particularly in view of the measure of success attending the present great drive of the Central Powers in western Europe, which has done much to strengthen the war parties in Germany and Austria and to silence the pacifist moderates.

Officials recalled to-day that this conciliatory disposition of Burian was displayed strongly in correspondence between the American State Department and the Austrian Foreign Office over the Ancona incident while Burian was Foreign Minister in 1914.

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INITIATED BY POPE.

Vatican Peace Moves Not Due to Plan of Belligerents.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, April 17.—The *Osservatore Romano*, organ of the Vatican, without denying that the Pope has been in communication by letter with the Emperor of Austria, reiterates that the Pope's peace notes are not due to the solicitation of any of the belligerents.

GREEKS TAKE FIVE TOWNS.

British Capture Two on Macedonian Front.

LONDON, April 17.—The Greek and British troops, which on Monday crossed the Struma River, on the eastern flank of the Macedonian front, occupied seven towns, the War Office announces. The statement follows:

Greek troops crossed the River Struma above Lake Thessalonica and occupied the villages of Beglik-Mah, Kakaraska, Salimah, Kiseki and Ada. The operation was most successfully carried out, with slight casualties.

Further to the north British troops occupied Kumli and Ormanli. A few Bulgarians were captured.

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ALLIES ARE READY TO TURN ON ENEMY

Continued from First Page.

cause of the possibility of enveloping movements by the enemy and therefore arranged their line at this point accordingly. It is pointed out that German guns kept hammering away for more than a day at the outposts which the British had evacuated. The withdrawal movement of the British began Sunday night.

Army men point out that the initiation of strong counter attacks against the German positions threatening Hazebrouck and the Ypres salient do not necessarily mean that the German grip will be broken. But they at least make the question of the possession of these points open to doubt and meanwhile time plays into the hands of Gen. Foch. There is an impression in military circles here that Gen. Foch is about ready to strike on a very large scale against the enemy, and this feeling has been accentuated by statements made by Gen. Maurice in London to-day. Gen. Maurice indicates clearly that the fresh forces which Gen. Foch is going to throw into the scales continue to be an all important factor.

BIG GUN KILLS 11 IN PARIS.

Women Chiefly Victims of Shell Falling Near Workshop.

PARIS, April 17.—Nine women and two men among yesterday's casualties due to the long range bombardment of Paris were killed by a shell falling in a courtyard outside a workshop. When the shell exploded a fragment passed through a glass wall between the court and the shop where the women were at work. The panic which ensued was quickly calmed. The factory was equipped with first aid appliances, and within half an hour all the injured had been taken to a hospital.

Work was resumed this morning at the factory with all the women employees present except those who were killed or wounded. Another shell fell in the middle of a barge on the river, cutting it in two. The crew leaped overboard and escaped unhurt.

ALBERT CATHEDRAL STRUCK.

German Guns Shoot Down Famous London Virgin.

LONDON, April 17.—The famous "Virgin" at the top of the Albert Cathedral, now being used as a German headquarters, was shot down by German artillery on Tuesday, says a despatch from British headquarters in France to Reuters.

It is not known, the correspondent adds, whether the destruction of the statue was an act of vandalism or of accident.

BOLO'S COMPOSURE SHAKEN BY SQUAD

Traitor Loses Indifference as He Is Conducted to Execution.

TAKES LAST COMMUNION

Asks That Handkerchief on Heart Be Given to Brother.

PARIS, April 17.—Standing before a firing squad in the forest of Vincennes early to-day Paul Bolo, once a condemned traitor, lost entirely the attitude of indifference he had maintained subsequent to and during his trial. When the order to fire was given the rifle spoke and Bolo crumpled up with several bullets in his head and heart.

Escorted by several guards Bolo left the State prison forty-five minutes before his execution. After leaving the automobile at Vincennes he listened to the exhortation of a priest, chaplain. Then his eyes were bandaged and he went without a struggle to his place before the firing squad.

"So much the better," I am delighted," Bolo exclaimed when awakened the morning by Commandant Julien of the third court-martial, who told him that the hour of execution had arrived. These were the only words spoken by Bolo except for instructions to the chaplain to take from his body a silk handkerchief which he placed on his chest and give it to his brother, Monsieur Bolo.

Dressed in New Suit.

The condemned man went to his execution in a new suit of clothes, brought to the prison by his brother, and wearing white gloves.

Before setting forth from the prison Bolo asked to be permitted to parade of communion.

After the execution the form of an internment at Vincennes was gone through and then the body was turned over to Bolo's family.

When Bolo was taken to the office to go through the formalities of his removal from prison for the execution he refused to sign the register. The official insisted, upon which Bolo cried in an authoritative tone: "It is I who command here; no one has anything more to impose upon me, I think."

The chaplain after the execution found lying over Bolo's heart two embroidered handkerchiefs, which had been placed by the bullets. One was given to Bolo's brother and the other to his widow.

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